

May 6, 1975

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Stull.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am surprised that Senator Lewis would get up here on this floor and say that he didn't know that the money that he has been paying when he buys his license on his car, that it didn't go to keep up the roads in the state of Nebraska. I have known this for a long, long time and I think most of the people out through the state knows it and I am just surprised that Senator Lewis would get up here and admit this before the people in the Legislature and I would oppose his amendment. I don't think that it is really proper. I wouldn't be at all afraid or hesitant to explain this to anyone that would ask any questions about it but I know the people in our area have known for a long, long time that this money goes for roads and streets and roads for the counties and I am sure that they want more roads. I know that in our area people are asking for more roads all the time, better roads. We have state roads out there that are in very bad shape. Some of them still have gravel.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think we have a tax bill of far more importance coming up so I move the previous question on 69.

SPEAKER: Do I see five hands? Seeing five hands, the question is, shall the debate cease? Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 2 nays.

SPEAKER: Debate has ceased. Senator Lewis, do you care to close?

SENATOR LEWIS: I will make it real short. Well, I appreciate the knowledge Senator Stull has about roads and some learning experience and sometimes some of us transplants with bad backgrounds don't have all the information at hand and we just got to ask the question and now I know and now I want everybody else to know and most of all I want the citizen to know and this will be a perfect way to do it. Now if we want to have the tax and we are going to use it for that purpose, I think it is only fair and right that we let them know what it is for. Now if you vote against it, maybe you don't want them to know what it is for and maybe that will be an admission of that. I can appreciate why Senator Stull doesn't want that on there. Obviously, you just keep saying, well, you are just paying for your license. You are just paying for your license, and don't tell them they are paying twenty-four, twenty-five million dollars for roads, and certainly if the taxpayers want the roads, the legitimate revenue source has always been the gas tax and let those people bring that issue forward. But if we are going to have this bill, let's go ahead and tell them what it is for. That is the least we can do for the public. If we are going to gouge them a little, we ought to tell them how we gouge them.

SPEAKER: The question is, shall the Lewis amendment be adopted? Have you all voted? Have you all voted?

CLERK: 10 ayes, 22 nays.